

Rate

Depth

Strength

Quality

Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?



Depth

Strength

Quality

Rate

Depth

Is it **superficial**
or is it **deep**?



Strength

Quality

Rate

Depth

Strength

Is it **strong**
or is it **weak**?




Quality

Rate

Depth

Strength

Quality

- 
- What's that **diameter** of the vessel?
 - Does the vessel have a **hard edge**?
 - How is the blood **flowing** through the vessel?

Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?

Slow	< 60 bpm
Rapid	> 90 bpm

Depth

Is it **superficial** or is it **deep**?

Superficial	felt near the surface, light pressure
Deep	felt near the bone, heavy pressure

Strength

Is it **forceful** or is it **forceless**?

deficient	forceless*
excess	forceful*

Quality

What is the **diameter** of the vessel?

thin	narrow, small diameter
large	wide, large diameter

Quality

Is there a **hard edge** to the vessel?

wiry	like a zither string, “crisp and distinct edges”
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Quality

How is the blood **flowing** through the vessel?

slippery	smooth
choppy	not smooth, rough

Floating	Deep	Slow	Rapid
floating	deep	slow	rapid
scallion-stalk	hidden	bound	skipping
drumskin	confined	regularly irregular	racing
soggy	weak	choppy	stirring
deficient		moderate	
surging			
scattered			

Pulse Images

fú mài (浮脉)

- floating
- superficial

Pulse Images

xì mài (细脉)

- thin
- fine
- thready

Pulse Images

huá mài (滑脉)

- slippery
- rolling

Pulse Images

sè mài (涩脉)

- choppy
- rough
- hesitant

DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?



Rate

Is it **fast** or is it **slow**?

Slow	cold
Rapid	heat

Depth

Is it **superficial** or is it **deep**?

Superficial	exterior pattern
Deep	interior pattern

Strength

Is it **forceful** or is it **forceless**?

forceful	excess conditions
forceless	deficiency conditions

Eight Principle Diagnosis

hot	cold	← rate
exterior	interior	← depth
excess	deficient	← strength
yang	yin	

Quality

What is the **diameter** of the vessel?

thin	blood, yin deficiency
large	?

Quality

Is there a **hard edge** to the vessel?

wiry	liver patterns, pain, obstruction
tight	cold, pain

Quality

*How is the blood **flowing** through the vessel?*

slippery	normal, heat, phlegm, dampness, food stagnation, pregnancy
choppy	qi and blood deficiency, blood stasis

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The diseases in human beings fall into four [categories], known as cold, heat, repletion, and vacuity. Therefore, the student of pulse should take the floating, deep, slow, and rapid [pulses] as the reins in observing disease conditions. This is an unchanging principle.

Zhu Dan-Xi

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Positions

	Left	Right
cun	HT/SI	LU/LI
guan	LV/GB	SP/ST
chi	KI/UB	PC/SJ